#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Glenn,

: Civil Action No.: 1:14-cv-13845

Plaintiff,

v.

Capital Recovery Systems, Inc.; and DOES 1- : COMPLAINT 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Stephanie Glenn, by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), violations of the Massachusetts Consumer Protection Act, M.G.L. c. 93A § 2, et seq. and invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and its agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.
  - 2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the 3. Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

#### **PARTIES**

4. The Plaintiff, Stephanie Glenn ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Wareham, Massachusetts, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

- 5. Defendant Capital Recovery Systems, Inc. ("CRS"), is an Ohio business entity with an address of 750 Cross Pointe Road, Suite S, Gahanna, Ohio 43230-6693, operating as a collection agency, and is a "debt collector" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
- 6. Does 1-10 (the "Collectors") are individual collectors employed by CRS and whose identities are currently unknown to the Plaintiff. One or more of the Collectors may be joined as parties once their identities are disclosed through discovery.
  - 7. CRS at all times acted by and through one or more of the Collectors.

#### **ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS**

#### A. The Debt

- 8. The Plaintiff allegedly incurred a financial obligation (the "Debt") to an original creditor (the "Creditor").
- 9. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meet the definition of a "debt" under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).
- 10. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to CRS for collection, or CRS was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.
- 11. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in "communications" as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

## B. CRS Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

- 12. On or around September 25, 2014, CRS contacted Plaintiff's mother and Aunt despite having Plaintiff's current location information.
- 13. During conversations with said third parties, CRS threatened to take a legal action against Plaintiff. To date, no such legal action has been taken.

### C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

- 14. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.
- 15. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

# **COUNT I VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.**

- 16. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 17. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendants communicated with individuals other than the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff's attorney, or a credit bureau.
- 18. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d in that Defendants engaged in behavior the natural consequence of which was to harass, oppress, or abuse the Plaintiff in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 19. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e in that Defendants used false, deceptive, or misleading representation or means in connection with the collection of a debt.
- 20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(5) in that Defendants threatened to take legal action, without actually intending to do so.
- 21. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) in that Defendants employed false and deceptive means to collect a debt.

- 22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692f in that Defendants used unfair and unconscionable means to collect a debt.
- 23. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendants constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.
  - 24. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendants' violations.

# <u>COUNT II</u> <u>VIOLATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT,</u> M.G.L. c. 93A § 2, et seq.

- 25. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 26. The Defendants employed unfair or deceptive acts to collect the Debt, in violation of M.G.L. c. 93A § 2.
- 27. Defendant's failure to comply with these provisions constitutes an unfair or deceptive act under M.G.L. c. 93A § 9 and, as such, the Plaintiff is entitled to double or treble damages plus reasonable attorney's fees.

# COUNT III INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION UPON SECLUSION

- 28. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 29. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, "One who intentionally intrudes…upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person."
- 30. Massachusetts further recognizes the Plaintiff's right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus Defendants violated Massachusetts state law.

31. The Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff's right to privacy by

continually harassing the Plaintiff by contacting Plaintiff's Mother and Aunt and disclosed to

them taking legal action against Plaintiff.

32. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities

resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive

to a reasonable person.

33. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, the Plaintiff is entitled to actual

damages in an amount to be determined at trial from Defendants.

34. All acts of Defendants and its agents were committed with malice, intent,

wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against Defendants;

2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1692k(a)(2)(A)

against Defendants;

3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C.

§ 1692k(a)(3) against Defendants;

4. Double or treble damages plus reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to M.G.L.

c. 93A § 3(A);

5. Punitive damages; and

6. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: October 14, 2014

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## Respectfully submitted,

By /s/ Sergei Lemberg

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